Appln. No.: 09/486,973

Amendment Dated March 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2003

<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u> This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A raw material composition for soda-lime glass, comprising a mirabilite (Na_2SO_4)-containing glass raw material having the incorporation of an additive selected from the group consisting of an oxide of lead (Pb), or lithium (Li), a chloride of iron (Fe), Pb, or Li, a sulfate of Fe, Pb[[,]] or Li, and a nitrate of Fe, Pb, or Li, wherein the additive suppresses formation of nickel sulfide in a resulting soda-lime glass.

2. (Canceled)

- 3. (Previously Presented) A raw material composition for soda-lime glass according to claim 1, wherein the percentage by weight of the additive is 0.15% on the basis of the total weight of the glass raw material.
- 4. (Previously Presented) A raw material composition for soda-lime glass, comprising a mirabilite (Na_2SO_4) —containing glass raw material having the incorporation of lithium nitrate (LiNO₃), wherein about 50% of the amount of mirabilite (Na_2SO_4) contained in the glass raw material is replaced by the LiNO₃, wherein the LiNO₃ suppresses formation of nickel sulfide in a resulting soda-lime glass.

5. - 8. (Canceled)

- 9. (Currently Amended) A raw material composition for soda-lime glass, comprising a mirabilite (Na_2SO_4)—containing glass raw material having the incorporation of an additive selected from the group consisting of lead oxide (PbO), lithium nitrate (LiNO₃), Fe(NO_3)₃ 9 H₂O, and FeCl₃ 6 H₂O, and FeSO₄ 7 H₂O, wherein the additive suppresses formation of nickel sulfide in a resulting soda-lime glass.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A raw material composition for soda-lime glass according to claim 1 or 4, further comprising at least one species selected from the group consisting of ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3) selenium (Se), and cerium (Ce), as a coloring component.

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11. (Previously Presented) A raw material composition for soda-lime glass according to claim 1, wherein the additive is a nitrate of Fe, the percentage by weight of the additive is from 0.075% to 0.15% on the basis of the total weight of the glass raw material, wherein the additive suppresses formation of nickel sulfide in a resulting soda-lime glass.

- 12. (New) A method of suppressing the formation of nickel sulfide during manufacturing soda-lime glass, comprising a step of reducing the formation of nickel sulfide by adding an additive selected from the group consisting of a chloride of Fe, Pb, or Li, a sulfate of Pb or Li, and a nitrate of Fe, Pb, or Li into a mirabilite (Na₂SO₄)-containing glass raw material.
- 13. (New) A method of suppressing the formation of nickel sulfide during manufacturing soda-lime glass, comprising a step of reducing the formation of nickel sulfide by adding an additive selected from the group consisting of $LiNo_3$, $Fe(NO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$, and $FeCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ into a mirabilite (Na_2SO_4)-containing glass raw material.